

Legal Notice: Opportunity to Comment on the Resolution Copper Project and Land Exchange Draft EIS

USDA Forest Service Tonto National Forest

The USDA Forest Service has prepared a Draft Environmental Impact Statement (Draft EIS) for the Resolution Copper Project and Land Exchange.

The proposed action is to approve the General Plan of Operations submitted by Resolution Copper Mining, LLC, and to complete the associated land exchange as directed by Congress under Section 3003 of the National Defense Authorization Act for fiscal year 2015. The Forest Service also anticipates a project-specific amendment to the existing forest plan. The proposed action includes the development of an underground copper mine near Superior, Arizona with a 40- to 50-year mine life with an estimated surface disturbance of 6,951 acres. The activity would occur on portions of the Tonto National Forest, Arizona State Trust Lands, and private lands in Pinal County, Arizona. The land exchange will convey 2,422 acres of Federal land on the Tonto National Forest, located in the area of the proposed mine, to Resolution Copper in exchange for approximately 5,344 acres of private land on eight parcels located elsewhere in eastern Arizona to be managed by the Forest Service and the Bureau of Land Management.

The Draft EIS and documents pertinent to this proposal are available for review at the following locations:

World Wide Web: <https://www.ResolutionMineEIS.us>

Pinal County - Superior Public Library, 99 N. Kellner Ave., Superior, AZ 85173

Tonto National Forest, Supervisor's Office, 2324 E. McDowell Road, Phoenix, AZ 85006

Tonto National Forest, Mesa Ranger District, 5140 E. Ingram St., Mesa, AZ 85205

Tonto National Forest, Globe Ranger District, 7680 S. Six Shooter Canyon Rd., Globe, AZ 85501

The purpose of this 90-day comment period -- **August 10 through November 7, 2019** -- is to offer the public an opportunity to provide early and meaningful feedback on a proposed action prior to a decision being made by the responsible official. The proposed project is an activity implementing a land management plan and is subject to the objection process pursuant to 36 CFR 218 Subparts A and B. Neil Bosworth, Forest Supervisor, Tonto National Forest, is responsible for considering the environmental impacts of the proposed action and alternatives; and for determining the terms and conditions necessary for approving the proposed mine plan of operations. The Forest Service will host five public hearing meetings to seek comments on the project Draft EIS. All meetings are scheduled from 5 to 8:30 p.m. and will take place at the following venues:

□ Tuesday, September 10, 2019, in Superior, AZ, at the Superior Jr./Sr. High School, 1500 Panther Drive

□ Thursday, September 12, 2019, in San Tan Valley, AZ, at the Central Arizona College, 3736 E. Bella Vista Road

□ Tuesday, September 17, 2019, in Kearny, AZ, at the Ray Elementary School, 701 AZ-177

□ Thursday, September 19, 2019, in Globe, AZ, at the High Desert Middle School, 4000 High Desert Drive

□ Tuesday October 8, 2019, in Queen Valley, AZ, at the Queen Valley Community Center, 1464 E. Queen Valley Drive

How to Comment and Timeframe:

The Environmental Protection Agency published a Notice of Availability for the Draft EIS in the *Federal Register* on August 9, 2019. The opportunity to provide comments and establish eligibility to object under 36 CFR 218 ends 90 days later, on November 7, 2019. Written, handdelivered, oral, and electronic comments concerning this action will be accepted.

Only those who submit timely and specific written comments (36 CFR 218.5) regarding the proposed project during a comment period established by the responsible official are eligible to file an objection under 36 CFR 218.8. For objection eligibility, each individual or representative from each entity submitting timely and specific written comments must either sign the comment or verify identity upon request. Names and contact information submitted with comments will become part of the public record.

Comments on the Resolution Copper Project and Land Exchange may be submitted by any of the following methods:

□ Attend an open house public hearing – oral and written comments accepted (see schedule above for public hearing dates and times)

□ Submit a comment using the online form at: www.ResolutionMineEIS.us/Comment. The online form accepts attachments in Microsoft Word (.doc and .docx), rich-text format (.rtf), plain text (.txt), or portable document format (.pdf)

□ Submit written comments via U.S. Postal Service mail to: Resolution EIS Comment, PO Box 34468, Phoenix, AZ 85067-4468.

NOTE: Written comments and statements must be postmarked no later than November 7, 2019.

This notice for opportunity to comment is available on the World Wide Web at:

<https://www.ResolutionMineEIS.us/comment>.

USDA Forest Service is an equal opportunity provider, employer, and lender. Published in the Arizona Capitol Times on August 9, 2019.